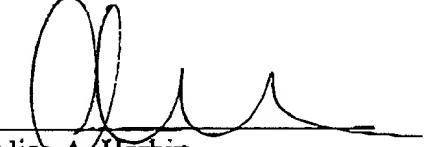


In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1664 referencing docket no. PP00063.021. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: 31/7/2003

By:

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGESIn the claims:

Claims 115-117, 120-122, 126-128, 133-135, 139-141, 145-147, 151, 153, 159, 162-163, 165-166, 168, 172-174, 178-180 and 220-282 have been canceled.

Claims 118, 119, 132, 138 and 144 have been amended as follows:

118. (Twice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise either (i) a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide that comprises a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from the genome of a hepatitis C virus genome or the complement thereof, or (ii) antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids encoded by a hepatitis C virus genome.

119. (Twice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise either (i) a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from either strand of at least one of the HCV cDNA inserts in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library deposited as ATCC No. 40394 or (ii) antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an HCV polypeptide sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acid encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in the lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.

132. (Amended) A method according to any of claims 115 118, 119 and 123-125, 162 or 163 wherein said biological samples are blood.

138. (Amended) A method according to any of 115 118, 119 and 123-125, 162 or 163 wherein said biological samples are plasma.

144. (Amended) A method according to any of claims 115 118, 119 and 123-125, 162 or 163 wherein said biological samples are sera.